



## Governor's Fire Service Policy Council

1:00 p.m. • Thursday, January 23, 2020  
Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal  
CP Pray Conference Room

**Call to Order:** Chair Hallman called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

### Roll Call:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Les Hallman, President        | <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Carriger, OFVA                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mariana Ruiz-Temple, OSFM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Kreutzer, Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Patterson, OFMA                | <input type="checkbox"/> Joseph Siebert, OSFFC                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Constantine Severe, Gov's Office         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eriks Gabliks, Ex-Officio, by phone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Clark, LOC           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Walker, Exec. Director    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dana Selover, Ex-Officio            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Jantzi, SDAO        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Terri Davie, Ex-Officio                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris McLaran, Insurance            | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant, Public Member                |

Others in Attendance: Claire McGrew, OSFM; Genoa Ingram, Court Street Consulting; Scott Neufeld, SDAO; Jason Bolen, Lebanon Fire  
Staff: Valerie Abrahamson

### *Meeting Minutes*

Motion for approval was made by Mark Kreutzer to approve the July 25, 2019 meeting minutes and seconded by Chief Ruiz-Temple. Motion passed unanimously.

### *Biennial Report to Governor's Office*

Chief Hallman introduced his Biennial Report to the Governor's Office and the Superintendent of State Police. This report highlights the work of the Council and the work of the Office of State Fire Marshal over the previous two years. This report will be delivered to intended parties on July 1, 2020.

### Executive Director's Report

Chief Walker shared that with a quiet fire season, the OSFM was able accomplish several items, including the 2019 Oregon Fire Code amendments.

Chief Walker shared that there was a lot of effort going into this legislative session. He mentioned that there could be positions for the Office of State Fire Marshal following the recommendations of the Governor's Wildfire Council. He also shared information on the potential for the Office of State Fire Marshal to become a standalone agency. Legislators will be reviewing bills to move the OSFM and Office of Emergency Management out of their respective agencies.

Chief Walker shared that the OSFM will be filling two vacancies for Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshals in the near future.

### ASSOCIATION REPORTS

#### *OFDDA Report – Genoa Ingram*

Genoa shared that the OFDDA Board met last week on three priority items. She shared the association the board uses to administer the service award program for volunteers firefighters continues to grow at just under 12 million dollars in investments.

Genoa also shared that there is excitement for an accreditation program for directors. The OFDDA considered several years back about putting together a program that would give some professionalism to the elected officials who oversee the districts. SDAO was working on a similar program, so OFDDA will

merge with SDAO to promote this program. Attendees will receive accreditation for attending conference classes.

The Conference Committee is beginning to work on the November conference in Salem that will have an emphasis on the legislative process.

Genoa shared her strong support of HB 4041 and will strongly advocate for the Office of State Fire Marshal to be its own agency.

***OVFA Report—Genoa Ingram***

Genoa shared that registration for the OVFA conference opened January 2, 2020. The conference will be held in Eugene, June 3-6. The board will be working with Lane County Fire Authority.

***OFMA Report—Chief Patterson***

Chief Patterson shared that the Technical Education Conference was held in November at DPSST, noting that it was very well attended.

The OFMA is planning for the Annual Business Meeting in Newport on May 11-13, noting that a 2019 Oregon Fire Code update class will be held on Monday before the conference.

He noted that OFMA is happy to see HB 4041 and the items coming out of the Governor's Wildfire Council. The OFMA has chosen to move Jason Bolen to fill the vacancy on the GFSPC. Chief Patterson introduced Jason Bolen to the group.

***SDAO- Jason Jantzi***

Jason shared that the Safety Grants have closed and SDAO is sending out acceptance letters. He shared there were \$450K worth of grants given out.

Jason spoke on the EAP program, noting that new districts and departments are continually being added. Jason provided some statistics to the group on usage and types of usage. There are a little over two years remaining in the three year contract.

Jason also shared there are over 1100 people subscribed to the SDAO newsletter. He welcomed anyone who is not receiving the newsletter to email him to get on the distribution list. In the future, there will be a three part series dedicated to new supervisor training.

***OFCA Report—Chief Hallman***

Chief Hallman shared that the OFCA is going into their roundtable sessions. The health, safety, and wellness roundtable will be held on February 3-4 at DPSST, the volunteer/smaller career/combo roundtable will be held on February 28-29 at DPSST, and the larger career roundtables held on March 12-13 at the Eugene Training Center.

Chief Hallman shared that the OFCA Meritorious Awards are open. The spring conference will be held April 48-May 1 at Eagle Crest. OFCA is the primary sponsor of the NW Leadership Seminar which will occur March 3-6 at the Red Lion in Salem.

Chief Hallman shared that the OFCA Board of Directors stood up a Wildfire Policy Committee to look at wildfire initiatives. Will look at collaborating and working closer together with other states.

One of the main focuses for the OFCA this legislation session is supporting the work of Governor's Wildfire Council and recommendations that are coming down. Chief Hallman stated a letter was sent to the Governor's Office regarding the proposed changes to the Office of State Fire Marshal, noting that in the letter it recommends using the council as a stakeholder sounding board to provide input.

Hallman noted that the GEMT bill that was passed in 2016 is only seeing 15% of the funding that it is supposed to be receiving. He noted the OFCA is working with Oregon Health Authority Medicaid staff getting GEMT program up and running.

OFCA will host a Fire Service Legislative Summit held February 4 at the SDAO Office at 2:00 PM to talk about legislative efforts. There will be no phone in option available.

## **MEMBER REPORTS**

### ***OSFM Report—Chief Ruiz-Temple***

Chief Ruiz-Temple shared information on the HB 792 Auto Dismantlers which puts a requirement on the Oregon Fire Service to do annual inspections. She noted that there are approximately 150 locations and currently the mandate is unfunded. Working on a technical bulletin in collaboration with the OFMA.

Chief Ruiz-Temple shared that Chief McGrew and her staff are working on a joint policy on open burning to provide guidance on what is and what is not allowable to burn, when burning should be allowed, and who can ban burning and more. The team is working to get this out before fire season.

Chief Ruiz-Temple spoke on the OSFM listening tours which were intended to listen to the voices of Oregon's Fire Service about wildland fire prevention and response and any values at risk and response capability barriers. Findings showed that there were capacity issues in personnel, funding, and resources.

The phase 2 report summary of the listening tour will be available the first week of February. Chief Ruiz-Temple asked the council and associations for an endorsement of the final report which will be going to legislature. Chief Hallman asked for a motion in support of voting by email for endorsement of the Listening Tour Final Report and so the endorsement can be added to the document. A motion was proposed by Chief and was seconded by Mark Kreutzer. Motion was unanimously approved. Valerie will send out the report to the council when it is complete and members will vote by email if they approve an endorsement by the council.

### ***League of Cities—Chief John Clark***

Chief Clark shared that a LOC conference was held at the end of September with a good showing. There will be a one-day conference held on April 24 in Hermiston.

### ***Property & Casualty Insurance—Chris McLaran***

Chris shared that the insurance industry was watching a number of bills this session. Will continue to monitor.

## **Ex-Officio Reports**

### ***DPSST Report—Director Eriks Gabliks***

DPSST Fire Program will host the largest two-day training opportunity in the Pacific Northwest for career and volunteer firefighters at the Academy in February. More than 300 firefighters are expected to attend more than a dozen classes being offered. Two of the National Fire Academy classes had to be cancelled because enrollment minimums were not met. There is no fee for anyone to attend this training event.

Sadly, in 2019, more firefighters and law enforcement officers died of suicide than in the line of duty. Public safety agencies and organizations around the country are working to provide resources on this important issue. DPSST is doing its part and is supporting a four-day event, the 2020 Northwest Peer Support Conference, specifically designed to discuss this issue. This conference is being held at the Salem Convention Center during the first week of February and will offer topics that will be of interest to all.

DPSST's Fire Program is working with the Northwest Fire Diversity Council, a metro-based group of fire agencies and educational providers that is working on sharing career opportunities with women and individuals from diverse backgrounds in the fire service. This group is looking to offer a two-day, hands-on, fire-rescue experience at the Academy later this year to bring exposure to the career field. DPSST will host the hands-on training which will be based on the Oregon State Police/American Legion Law

Enforcement Career Camp and FBI Teen Academy. No fee will be charged for the opportunity and DPSST will cover meals and lodging.

To address recent recruiting challenges, DPSST's Fire Program is continuing its internal evaluation how personnel resources are allocated and what changes might be implemented to assist in hiring and service delivery. The model will remain very similar to what it currently looks like with some changes in personnel deployment and augmentation by part-time trainers. While DPSST works on implementing the new model, it is making a 10K grant available to each of the state's regional fire training associations. These grants have been an effective way for the regional training associations to host or offer training for its members.

With permission granted by the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training at its October meeting, DPSST submitted a Ways & Means request for the 2020 session for funds to deliver four additional Basic Police classes in our current (2019-2021) budget. If this request is not approved DPSST will run out of funds for Basic Police classes probably by November of 2020, based on the volume of newly hired law enforcement officers being hired by city, county, state, tribal and university agencies around the state. The request also includes funds for an additional custodian and an information services position. DPSST estimates that more than 400 officers are proposed to be hired in 2020.

DPSST's recent Elected Officials – Community Partners Academy was well received. The class was full with 20 individuals from various communities around the state attending. The feedback was very positive with many of the attendees asking for more time in the training venues to watch the work of our staff and their students.

***Oregon Health Authority—Dr. Dana Selover***

Dr. Selover shared that the State EMS Committee is working on EMS service capacity, working to strengthen medical directors in fire and non-fire, and trying to get integrated with the PSAPS for 911 operators.

Dr. Selover noted that OHA is working hard on cardiac arrest numbers in Oregon, noting that Oregon is better than the average benchmark in the country. A revival class will be held in November.

Dr. Selover shared that OHA is watching HB 4041, with a legislative liaison looking at the EMS portion of the bill. She noted that there will be efforts on modernization concepts for EMS in the 2021 legislative session.

Looking at NFPA and CAAS remount standards and will be getting together small workgroup to evaluate the new standards.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Ag Exempt Task Force—Chief Patterson***

Since task force commissioned, there has been some background work being done. Chief Patterson noted that the 2019 Oregon Fire Code included a couple of things that were relevant to AG buildings in some manner. He noted the existing building chapter was expanded and included usable items. Future conversations will occur now that the code amendments are adopted and include stakeholder involvement. Will want to see how legislative session plays out. Might want a joint policy in the future.

The task force is surveying the state to see what inspection methods worked and which didn't. Looking at how owners get AG exemption for specific buildings and what is causing confusion for building and fire officials.

Chief Patterson shared that a summary and recommendation will be provided at the next council meeting and he will provide an update at the May OFCA conference and at the OFMA Annual Business Meeting.

Chief Patterson will continue to chair the task force although he is departing the council.

***High-Density Residential Task Force—Chief Clark***

Chief Clark shared that the High-Density Residential Task Force met over several months looking at NFPA, the Oregon Fire Code, and issues across the nation on fires occurring in high-density residential areas with tall buildings. Ultimately, the group developed a recommendation on how these types of incidences may be reduced and how code may be amended.

Chair Hallman shared that a specific recommendation to the Oregon Fire Code Advisory Board to further the work. Chair Hallman asked for a motion to support the task force recommendation to push forward the report and recommendation to the Oregon Fire Code Advisory Board as received. Mark Kreutzer moved and Chief John Patterson seconded. The motion carried.

***Membership Report***

Chair Hallman presented Chief Patterson a term letter from the State Fire Marshal and invited him back for recognition at the next meeting.

The OSFM position will be filled Chief Heffner as Chief Ruiz-Temple terms out. Rep. Neron has applied to fill the vacant public member position. The OSFFC is working on providing a replacement for the soon to be vacant seat.

***Good of the Order***

Director Gabliks shared that DPSST is working with Oregon OSHA and various fire service partners to create an Oregon OSHA standard for fire departments and fire protection districts that don't have the ability (equipment, training, both) to conduct interior firefighting operations. There are a number of fire agencies in Oregon that don't have self-contained breathing apparatus and additional equipment that would enable them to enter a burning structure. Under the current Oregon OSHA 2L standard all fire agencies are looked at through the same lens. This new proposed Oregon OSHA standard would give fire agencies a choice as to what type of fire agency they are, interior or exterior, and to let their community and partner fire agencies know the same.

Chief Patterson thanked the OSFM for how the process of the 2019 Oregon Fire Code revision occurred and for the Oregon Fire Code Advisory Board, noting that it was long overdue and very appropriate.

***Adjournment:***

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 2:53 p.m.